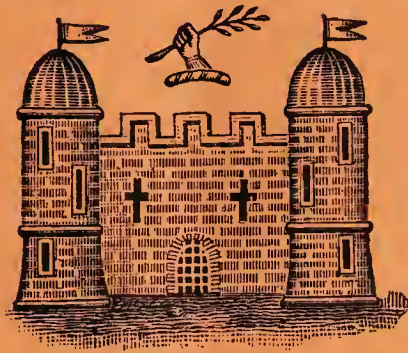


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**KNARESBOROUGH**  
**URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**



**Medical Officer's**  
**Annual Report,**

FOR THE  
Year ending December 31st, 1903.

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**Knareborough:**

GEORGE D WOOD, PRINTER, FINKLE STREET.

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1904.



KNARESBOROUGH  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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MEDICAL OFFICER'S  
ANNUAL REPORT,

*For the Year ending December 31st, 1903.*

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KNARESBOROUGH,

*Feb. 21st, 1904.*

GENTLEMEN,—

In presenting a report for Knaresborough Urban District for the year 1903, I have to record the lowest Death Rate for many years, and a marked decrease upon the average for the past ten years.

114 deaths were registered in your district, giving a Death Rate of 22·8. The average for the previous ten years, as shown by the table appended at the end of this report, was 125, with a Death Rate of 26·6.

But of these 114 deaths 26 occurred in the Workhouse, and, eliminating that number, leaves only 88 deaths for your

District proper, with a Death Rate of 17·6 per 1000 of the population per annum, the average for the previous five years being 110, with an average Death Rate of 23·0.

Table showing and comparing Deaths and Death Rates for three years :—

|           | Deaths.  | Rate per 1000 per annum. |
|-----------|----------|--------------------------|
| 1901..... | 115..... | 23·0                     |
| 1902..... | 97.....  | 19·4                     |
| 1903..... | 88.....  | 17·6                     |

### BIRTHS.

It is satisfactory at the same time to record an increase in the Birth Rate.

165 births were registered, 75 male and 90 female, giving a Birth Rate per 1000 of the population per annum of 33. In 1902 the births numbered 144, giving a Birth Rate of 28·8.

The following Table shows the deaths due to preventable causes, and compares them with the two previous years.

TABLE I.

Deaths due to preventable causes :—

|                     | 1901.  | 1902. | 1903. |
|---------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Small-pox .....     | 0 ...  | 0 ... | 0     |
| Scarlet Fever.....  | 0 ...  | 0 ... | 0     |
| Diphtheria          | 0 ...  | 1 ... | 0     |
| Membranous Croup    | 0 ...  | 0 ... | 0     |
| Measles .....       | 0 ...  | 8 ... | 5     |
| Whooping Cough..... | 9 ...  | 0 ... | 0     |
| Enteric Fever ..... | 3 ...  | 1 ... | 1     |
| Typhus Fever .....  | 0 ...  | 0 ... | 0     |
| Diarrhœa .....      | 11 ... | 0 ... | 3     |
| Enteritis.....      | 5 ...  | 6 ... | 1     |

|  | 1901.    | 1902.    | 1903.  |
|--|----------|----------|--------|
| Phthisis and<br>Other Tubercular<br>Diseases | { 10 ... | { 12 ... | 7<br>4 |
| Erysipelas .....                             | 0 ...    | 0 ...    | 0      |
| Influenza .....                              | 0 ...    | 5 ...    | 3      |
| Puerperal Fever .....                        | 0 ...    | 1 ...    | 0      |

The total number of deaths from preventable diseases was 24, as against 34 in 1902, and 38 in 1901.

Phthisis and other tubercular diseases account for 11 deaths, this being one less than in 1902.

Measles accounts for 5, and was present in epidemic form in the summer, and the schools were on that account closed for 10 days longer than the summer holidays, *i.e.*, from July 18th to July 27th.

Owing to the coolness of the summer and the abnormal rainfall, diarrhœa and enteritis account for much fewer deaths than in many previous years.

Although no deaths in the District are attributed to small-pox, two cases occurred, and of these one died after removal to the Isolation Hospital. The latter case occurred in a servant at the Grammar School. All the inmates of the house were promptly re-vaccinated, also the day scholars, with the exception of one or two who had been re-vaccinated the year previous. The room the girl had occupied at the commencement of her illness was thoroughly disinfected, and her clothing destroyed, with the happy result that no other case arose from this one. The other case was, no doubt, contracted out of the town. The patient was promptly removed to the Isolation Hospital, all his relatives who had been in contact with him were re-vaccinated, and the house disinfected, and the bedding destroyed.



With the exception of the epidemic of measles, with its 5 deaths, and a few sporadic cases of scarlet fever, the town has been singularly free from epidemic.

TABLE II.

Infectious Diseases notified :—

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Enteric Fever.....  | 7     |
| Small-pox .....     | 2     |
| Scarlet Fever ..... | 5     |
|                     | <hr/> |
|                     | 14    |
|                     | <hr/> |

TABLE III.

Deaths from non-preventable causes :—

|   | 1903.  | 1902.  | 1901. |
|---|--------|--------|-------|
| Pneumonia and Bronchitis                    | 4 ...  | 5 ...  | 12    |
| Heart Disease .....                         | 7 ...  | 12 ... | 6     |
| Alcoholism and Cirrhosis)<br>of Liver ..... | 2 ...  | 5 ...  | 2     |
| Cancer .....                                | 10 ... | 6 ...  | 7     |
| Senile Decay .....                          | — ...  | 6 ...  | 12    |
| Convulsions .....                           | — ...  | 0 ...  | 3     |
| Injuries and Accidents .....                | 0 ...  | 2 ...  | 2     |
| Suicides .....                              | 1 ...  | 0 ...  | 0     |
| Premature Birth ...                         | 8 ...  | — ...  | —     |
| Diseases of Liver .....                     | 1 ...  | — ...  | —     |

In spite of the abnormal rainfall, and deficiency of sunshine throughout the year, the deaths from chest diseases have not increased, but rather diminished.

But it is not so satisfactory, however, to note that the deaths from cancer are considerably increased, and this year are at the rate of 113 in every 1000 deaths.

Deaths from alcoholism and its consequences are less than last year.

TABLE IV.

The ages at which death occurred :—

|                                  |       |
|----------------------------------|-------|
| Deaths under 1 year of age ..... | 29    |
| „ at 1 year and under 5..... ..  | 7     |
| „ at 5 years „ 15..... ..        | 3     |
| „ at 15 „ „ 25..... ..           | 6     |
| „ at 25 „ „ 65..... ..           | 19    |
| „ at 65 years and upwards .....  | 24    |
|                                  | <hr/> |
|                                  | 88    |
|                                  | <hr/> |

## PART II.

## SANITARY WORK ACCOMPLISHED.

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Printed Notices for Abatement of Nuisances served   | 9  |
| Written „ „ „ „                                     | 38 |
| New Water Closets provided .....                    | 30 |
| Insanitary Privies and Ashpits abolished .....      | 17 |
| Old Privies and Ashpits put into sanitary condition | 1  |
| Movable Receptacles for Ashes provided .....        | 47 |
| New Drains provided..... ..                         | 24 |
| Water Spouts, causing dampness, repaired .....      | 18 |
| Animals and Fowls kept in houses removed .....      | 1  |
| Drains Trapped and Ventilated .....                 | 21 |
| Yards Re-paved .....                                | 3  |
| Sink Pipes cut off .....                            | 2  |
| Drains repaired and put into sanitary condition ... | 29 |
| Dwellings closed as unfit for human habitation..... | 2  |
| Dwelling Houses limewashed and cleaned.....         | 5  |
| Old Buildings pulled down .....                     | 1  |

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Accumulations of Filth and Rubbish removed ..... | 23   |
| Nuisances caused by Animals abated .....         | 14   |
| Loads of Nightsoil removed.....                  | 1772 |
| Notices outstanding on Dec. 31st, 1903.....      | 3    |

The two cases outstanding at the close of 1902 have been dealt with as follows :—In one case the committee decided to let the premises remain as they were, and in the other the owner has carried out the work satisfactorily.

### FACTORY & WORKSHOP ACT OF 1901.

Of factories, workshops, and workplaces as referred to in this Act, there are in your District 30.

The Sanitary Inspector and I have visited and inspected them all, giving careful attention to the cleanliness, sufficiency of air space, ventilation, drainage, and sanitary accommodation in each case.

The 30 places comprise :—

- Linen Weaving Mill.
- Gas Works.
- Laundry.
- Electrical Engineering Works.
- Currier.
- Iron Foundry.
- Printers (2).
- Aerated Water Works.
- Saw Mill.
- Wool Mat Manufactories (2).
- Dressmakers (5).
- Bakehouses and Confectioners (12).

They were all found to be in a satisfactory condition, and in the one or two instances where alterations were



thought necessary, these were at once undertaken by the occupiers or owners.

There are no out-workers in the District.

### HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.

During the year two houses have been closed as unfit for human habitation, and although a few new working men's houses have been built, there is a lack of suitable houses for working men, and there are many houses so occupied that they are scarcely fit for the purpose, and too small for the families that occupy them. The plentiful "open spaces" round many of these houses, however, to a large extent make up for their deficiencies.

### SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE.

There has been no alteration during the year, and the sewerage has been satisfactory.

### EXCREMENT DISPOSAL.

This has been satisfactorily carried out during the year.

### REMOVAL OF HOUSE REFUSE.

The Contractor's carts have at frequent intervals, and satisfactorily, removed the house refuse.

### LODGING HOUSES, SLAUGHTER HOUSES, &c.

These have been regularly inspected, and no complaints as to their condition have arisen during the year.

## WATER SUPPLY.

Towards the end of the year the old supply from the River Nidd was abandoned, and the Town supplied from the Harrogate Waterworks. So far the supply has been sufficient and of good quality.

## INSPECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

The Surveyor and I have made more or less systematic general inspections of the District. Nothing arose during the year to call for any special inspection.

The County Council have established a bacteriological laboratory at Wakefield under the County Medical Officer, where the bacteriological examination of sputa in the case of suspected phthisis, membrane from the throat in doubtful diphtheria, and urine in typhoid fever is undertaken.

All District Medical Officers of Health are supplied with special cases for the collection of and forwarding of specimens for examination, and a report upon the same is quickly returned to them. Any medical man can obtain a case from the Medical Officer of his District, and forward a specimen to the laboratory for the confirmation or otherwise of the diagnosis in a doubtful case. This is a great advantage to the public health, enabling a sure diagnosis to be made; in many cases, much sooner than they can be done by watching the development of symptoms, and consequently enabling notification to be made to the Medical Officer of Health much sooner, as well as preventing possible mistakes in notification,

From this District two specimens of urine in suspected typhoid fever, and three specimens of sputum from phthisical cases were examined and reported on during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

IAN D. MACKAY, B.A., M.B., C.M.,  
*Medical Officer of Health.*

To

THE KNARESBOROUGH URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



